

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227911

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECOSOC, JO, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN'S CANDIDACY FOR ECOSOC SEAT

REF: AMMAN 5292

1. INDIA, PAKISTAN, THAILAND, IRAN, PDRY AND YAR HAVE ANNOUNCED CANDIDACIES FOR ELECTION TO TWO ASIAN SEATS ON ECOSOC FALLING VACANT END THIS YEAR. NOW, WITH US RATIFICATION OF CHARTER AMENDMENT ENLARGING ECOSOC FROM 27 TO 54, THERE HAVE BEEN NECESSARY RATIFICATIONS TO BRING AMENDMENT INTO FORCE, WHICH MEANS 27 ADDITIONAL SEATS MUST BE FILLED. OF THESE, SIX ARE ASIAN TO GIVE ASIA TOTAL OF 11 SEATS AS PROVIDED UNDER GA RESOLUTION ENLARGING ECOSOC. (TERMS OF 3 CURRENT ASIAN MEMBERS ECOSOC DO NOT EXPIRE THIS YEAR -- JAPAN, PRC, AND MONGOLIA). THAILAND ALSO ANNOUNCED CANDIDATE FOR ONE OF THESE SEATS, AS ARE FIJI, INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES. OVERALL AND COUNTING JORDAN THERE ARE THEREFORE 10 ASIAN CANDIDATES FOR 8 SEATS TO BE FILLED.

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2. IT CANNOT BE ASSUMED THAT JORDANIAN CANDIDACY IS IN COMPETITION WITH THAT OF ANY OTHER PARTICULAR ASIAN CANDIDATE. ONE OF OLD SEATS TO BE VACATED THIS YEAR IS HELD BY LEBANON AND OTHER BY MALAYSIA, BUT THERE NO INDICATION HOW ASIANS WILL ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL SEATS WITHIN REGION. NOR HAVE WE ANY INDICATION OF ANY ASIAN PREFERENCES AMONG ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES. ELECTIONS NOW SCHEDULED FOR NOV. 23.

3. IN THIS SITUATION, DEPT BELIEVES WE MUST ADHERE TO USUAL US PRACTICE IN THE CASE OF ELECTIONS TO UN BODIES AND DEFER TAKING ANY POSITION ON ELECTIONS TO ECOSOC AT 28TH GA UNTIL PREFERENCES OF REGIONS CONCERNED HAVE BEEN INDICATED. RUSH

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